

Syracuse Road

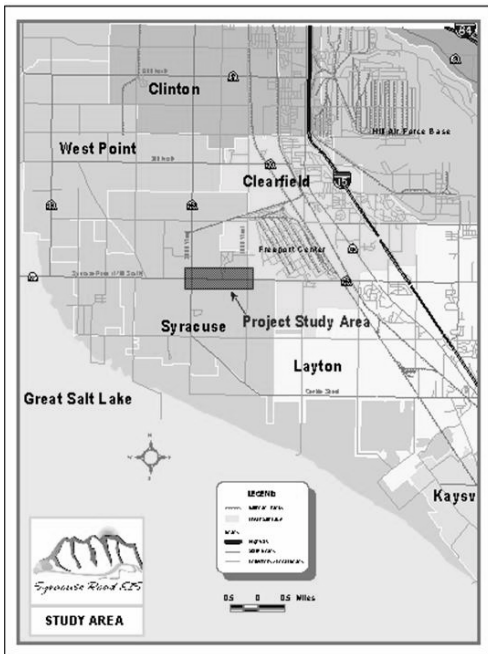
May 2004 Newsletter



1000 West to 2000 West

Project Description

The Utah Department of Transportation has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine the best transportation solution to address current and future needs for Syracuse Road between 1000 West and 2000 West. Syracuse Road is also known as Antelope Drive, 1700 West, and State Route 108.



Purpose and Need for the Project

- Accommodate the regional travel demand for east-west travel in northwest Davis County.
- Provide a transportation facility consistent with current standards, including those adopted by UDOT and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
- Provide a transportation facility consistent with state, regional, and local plans.
- Enhance the opportunities to incorporate multi-modal facilities within the corridor (bus stops, bicycle lanes, etc.)
- Improve features of the facility to address current and future safety concerns.

Traffic Projections

Syracuse City has grown from approximately 4,781 people in 1990 to 9,398 in 2000 and expects to reach a population of over 24,000 by 2030. In addition, other cities in the area are expected to continue to grow through 2030, with projected growth rates ranging from 0.6% to 2.4%.

The capacity of a two-lane roadway is 12,000 vehicles per day. Currently, Syracuse Road is a two-lane road (one lane in each direction) between 1000 West and 2000 West and carries about 18,000 vehicles per day. This results in severe congestion during peak periods (not surprising to anyone who lives or commutes along this corridor). It is projected that traffic volumes will increase to 26,000 vehicles per day on this section of Syracuse Road by 2030.



Project Schedule / Key Milestones

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:	
Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement	July 2003 through about December 2004
Public Meeting #3	June or July 2004
Public Meeting #4	October 2004
Public Hearing	Spring 2005
Final Environmental Impact Statement	Summer 2005
Record of Decision from Federal Highway Administration	By December 2005
IF A BUILD ALTERNATIVE IS SELECTED, THEN:	
Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction	Jan 2006 and beyond

Summary of Public Open Houses

Two public open houses have been held so far. The first one, held on December 11, 2003, was attended by 34 residents and five written comments were received. Presentations at this open house included information on traffic and population projections for the area. Residents were asked to express their concerns about transportation in the area and the possible widening of Syracuse Road.

A second open house was held March 10, 2004. Six preliminary roadway options were presented at this meeting and public comment regarding their impacts was encouraged. Of the 63 people who attended, 31 submitted written comments.



At this time, the project team is evaluating the impacts of these six alternatives. Comments are still being taken regarding the alternatives, which are included as an attachment to this newsletter. These alternatives, comments received, and materials from the two open houses are also available for viewing and download at www.udot.utah.gov/syracuseroad.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who decides what happens here?

Public input is critical to the environmental process. Local citizens are encouraged to share opinions and suggestions that will help determine the transportation alternatives that are considered in the study. Based on this input and upon impacts to the natural and built environment, UDOT and the Federal Highway Administration will determine the best transportation solution.

Why can't improvements be made right now?

The study must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that mandates extensive evaluation of environmental effects and public input regarding transportation projects. Performing the necessary studies and collecting input takes time. Taking the necessary time now will ensure a better result for everyone.

What Next?

Over the next month, the project team will be working to analyze alternatives and evaluate which one best serves the transportation need and the community. The team will also be conducting environmental studies in the project area. You will have an opportunity to see the progress and make comments at the next public open house which will be held in June or July.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions or comments about this project please contact one of the following individuals:

For Media Inquiries:

Andrew Neff
UDOT Public Involvement Coordinator
(801) 620-1641
aneff@utah.gov

Other Key Contacts:

Horrocks Engineers Public Involvement
Specialist
Stephanee Eastman
1-800-662-1644
StepHE@horrocks.com

UDOT Project Manager
Charles Mace
(801) 620-1685
cmace@utah.gov

*Please contact Stephanee to be added to the mailing list.



Visit the project website at
www.udot.utah.gov/syracuseroad